IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE Application Serial No.10/053,201 Filing DateJanuary 15, 2002 Inventor Harry Rosenberg, et al. Examiner P. Dang Title: Tantalum Sputtering Target and Method of Manufacture PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO ACCOMPANY A REQUEST FOR CONTINUED **EXAMINATION (RCE)** To: MS RCE Attn: Art Unit 2818 Commissioner for Patents PO BOX 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 From: James E. Lake (Tel. 509-624-4276; Fax 509-838-3424) Wells St. John P.S. 601 W. First Avenue, Suite 1300 Spokane, WA 99201-3828 REMARKS This Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Application is being filed in an abundance of caution to permit consideration of a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. No new matter is being presented in this application. A telephonic interview is requested in the event that the next office action is one other than a Notice of Allowance. The undersigned is available during normal business hours (Pacific Time Zone). Respectfully submitted.

Reg. No. 44,854

Dated: